
A Newsletter from Africa. 3. "Rhodesia"

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In October 1995, Bob Schwerdt published a thorough update of the Africa Section of the World Perfin Catalogue. Since then a number of new records have been published in the Bulletin. Also, I have maintained my own reference data and records, which will add a lot of interesting information to Bob's catalogue. In this and future *Newsletters from Africa*, I intend to update members with the sort of new information which exists. I hope, though, that members will be motivated to send any other information they have so that the next version of the Africa Catalogue can be more complete.

In this Newsletter, the subject is "Rhodesia" whose philatelic history is very complex with various administrations such as Southern and Northern Rhodesia, Nyasaland (now Zimbabwe), Zambia, and Malawi. There have been at least twelve different postal administrations since the 1890's. However, the simplest picture, from a perfin point of view, is to concentrate on two and note the others as exceptions.

Rhodesia, over the period 1892 to 1924, was represented by the British South Africa Co. Most of the perfins found from this period are fiscals although there are three recorded commercial patterns.

1) Fiscal Perfins:

- The BSA/C perfins of the British South Africa Co are all fiscal cancels (although there may be one or two rare postal exceptions) and were used for fees for legal documents, permits, licenses etc. The Catalogue notes three different versions of this pattern, but I have now identified at least nine similar but different types of this basic perfin. There could be more as the administration of such a large territory would have required a perforator to be available at many different centres. I will include these in the next version of the Catalogue, but if anyone wants a copy please contact me.
- The three tier date perfin is also a canceller for fiscal purposes. I have not yet studied these in detail, but logically there could be several versions of this

pattern. I have a little information on the "two tier date" type.

- The "USED" pattern is well known but found only in the BSACo period as a cancel for fiscal purposes.

These three perfin types are found on legal documents. I have one such document, from the Deeds Registry in Bulawayo, which was cancelled with a single round punch, an unusual example of a "one hole perfin" as it played a similar purpose to the better known patterns?

There is also an article, probably written by Otto Peetoom, showing early revenues with two, parallel, perforated lines. Both this and the one-hole pattern would be new to the catalogue.

2) Commercial Perfins -there were three from this period:

- A.A./T.C. - which is not now thought to be the Anglo American Tobacco Co, is more likely to be from the Anglo African Trading Co. Can anyone comment?
- H&S - which is likely to be from Haddon & Sly, a well-known department store in Bulawayo.
- RM - which is a new record. The pattern is identical to one used by R. Muller in South Africa.

After the Rhodesia BSACo period, Southern Rhodesia (from 1924 to 1954) has several commercial perfins.

- A.A./T.C. and H&S continued in use, but new dies appeared.
- UM of Umtali Municipality is found in postal and fiscal stamps.
- D.R/Co which is likely to be Dunlop Rubber Co. The pattern is similar to several used in neighbouring South Africa and in GB.
- LL - has been confirmed as Lennon Limited, Chemists in Salisbury.
- S.R./G. was used by the Southern Rhodesian Government and probably only in revenue stamps for passport fees.
- The BSA/C and Date perfins continued in use into this 1924-1954 period.

After 1954, and until 1963, the territory's stamps were identified as Rhodesia and Nyasaland. Records show only one postally used perfin at that time, the UM perfin of Umtali Municipality. No postal perfins have been reported from the modern states of Zambia, Malawi, and Zimbabwe.

Apart from the above, there are a number of fiscal cancels of the "PAID/DATE" style and such types are recorded from S. Rhodesia, Rhodesia & Nyasaland, and N. Rhodesia (now Zambia). Kodak cancels are known on more recent stamps from Zambia, Rhodesia & Nyasaland, S Rhodesia, and Rhodesia (post Federation). The Catalogue lists a partial "D.O.?" under the Nyasaland Protectorate. I have also seen a King George V high value revenue from Nyasaland with a perfin cancel but could not record details. Can anyone comment and add to

these, or provide good images of these last two uncommon patterns?

Since the Catalogue more perfins have been recorded and identified, and some of the background on how they were used has been established. Can anyone comment or add to this before it is turned into a re-write for the next Catalogue?

Dave Morton of the Rhodesia Study Circle is also opening up an awareness of these perfins amongst their members and more information could come from this source. My thanks, also, to Peter Maybury for his input into this article.

If any member can comment, clarify, or add to this information please contact me at bdennis@mweb.co.za or 28 Pyracantha St, Heldervue, Somerset West 7130, South Africa or via the Bulletin.
